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SUBJECT: Authorization for Release of Technical Information, Control Number: AFRL-PR-ED-TP-FY99-0160  
J.D. Presilla, J. Harper and C.W. Larson, "Kinetics of Formation of Cyclic C<sub>6</sub> and C<sub>8</sub> and B<sub>7</sub>C<sub>n</sub>J Clusters (J = 0,1,2; n = 3-11) in Solid Argon"

Gordon Research Conference (International)

(Statement A)

# Kinetics of formation of cyclic $C_6$ and cyclic $C_8$ and $B_J C_{n-J}$ clusters ( $J = 0, 1, 2$ ; $n = 3-11$ ) in solid argon

J. D. Presilla-Márquez, J. Harper, C. W. Larson.

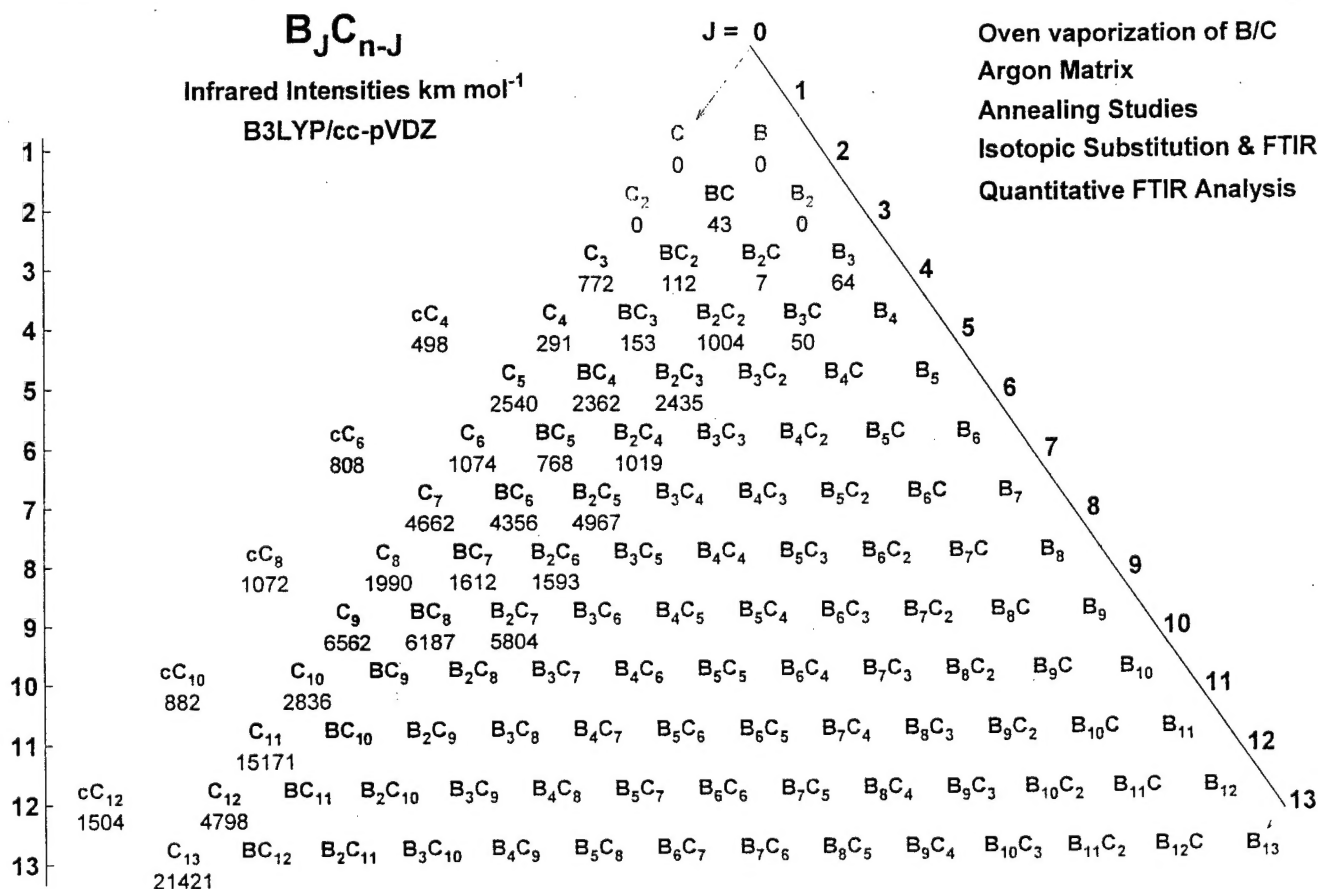
Propulsion Directorate  
Air Force Research Laboratory  
Edwards AFB, CA 93524-7680

High Energy Density Matter (HEDM) Research Group  
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Jessica Harper, Karl Christe, Mario Fajardo, Michael Tinnirello, Michelle DeRose, Paul Jones,  
Txomin Presilla (Schafer Corporation) Peter Langhoff, Simon Tam, Suresh Suri, William Wilson,

Gordon Research Conference  
Physics and Chemistry of Matrix Isolated Species  
Plymouth State College  
Plymouth, New Hampshire  
11-16 July 1999

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## Goal

Production of Cryogenic HEDM with Five Mole Percent Atoms.

## Objective

Characterization of species from boron atom source and subsequent condensation products

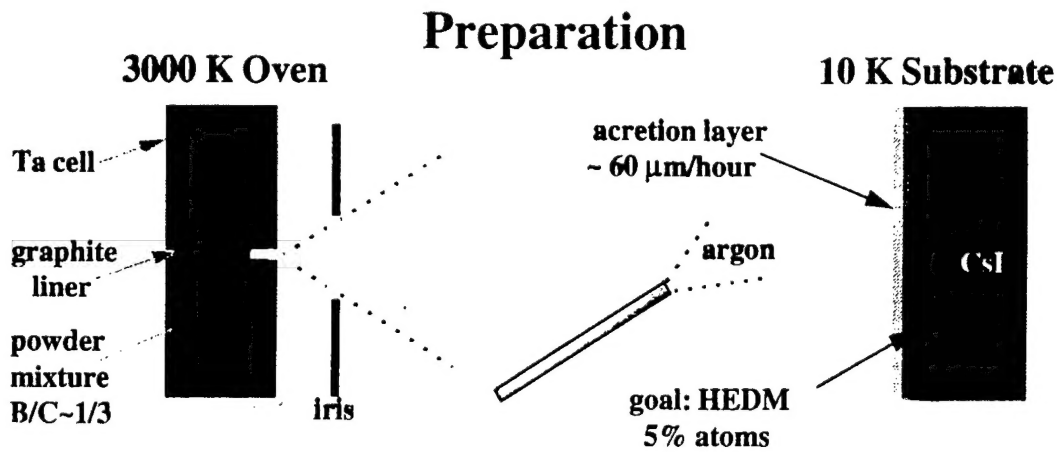
## Approach

Production of HEDM by evaporation of boron with high-temperature graphite furnace and co-deposition of vapor with argon on a cold (10 K) surface

Identification and quantitative analysis of  $B_J C_{n-J}$  species ( $n \geq 3$ ,  $J = 0$  to  $n$ ) by FTIR spectroscopy and *ab-initio* calculations

Quantitative measurement of distributions of  $B_J C_{n-J}$  species produced upon deposition and after annealing to a constant composition.

Absolute column densities (molecules  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) from Beer's law:  $\langle \rho_i l \rangle = 2.303 A_{\text{exp}} / I_{\text{theory}}$

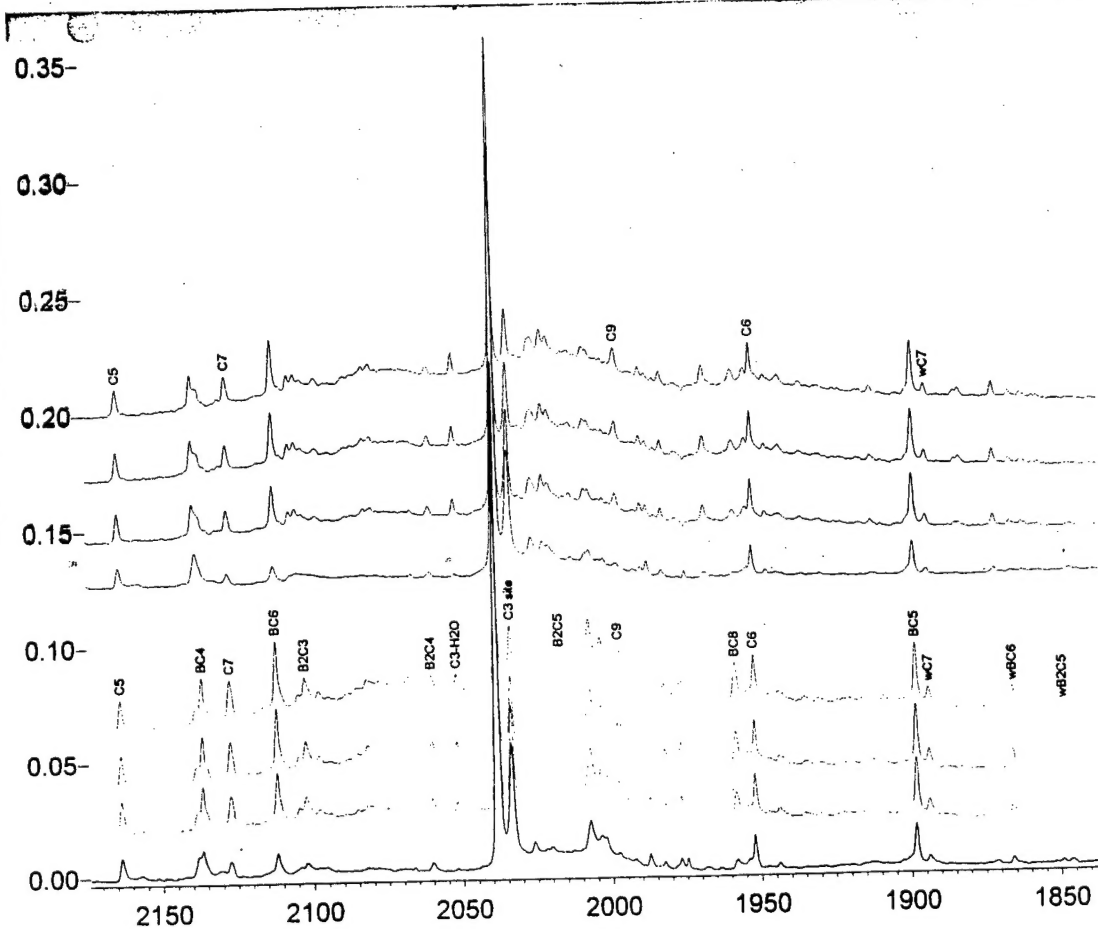
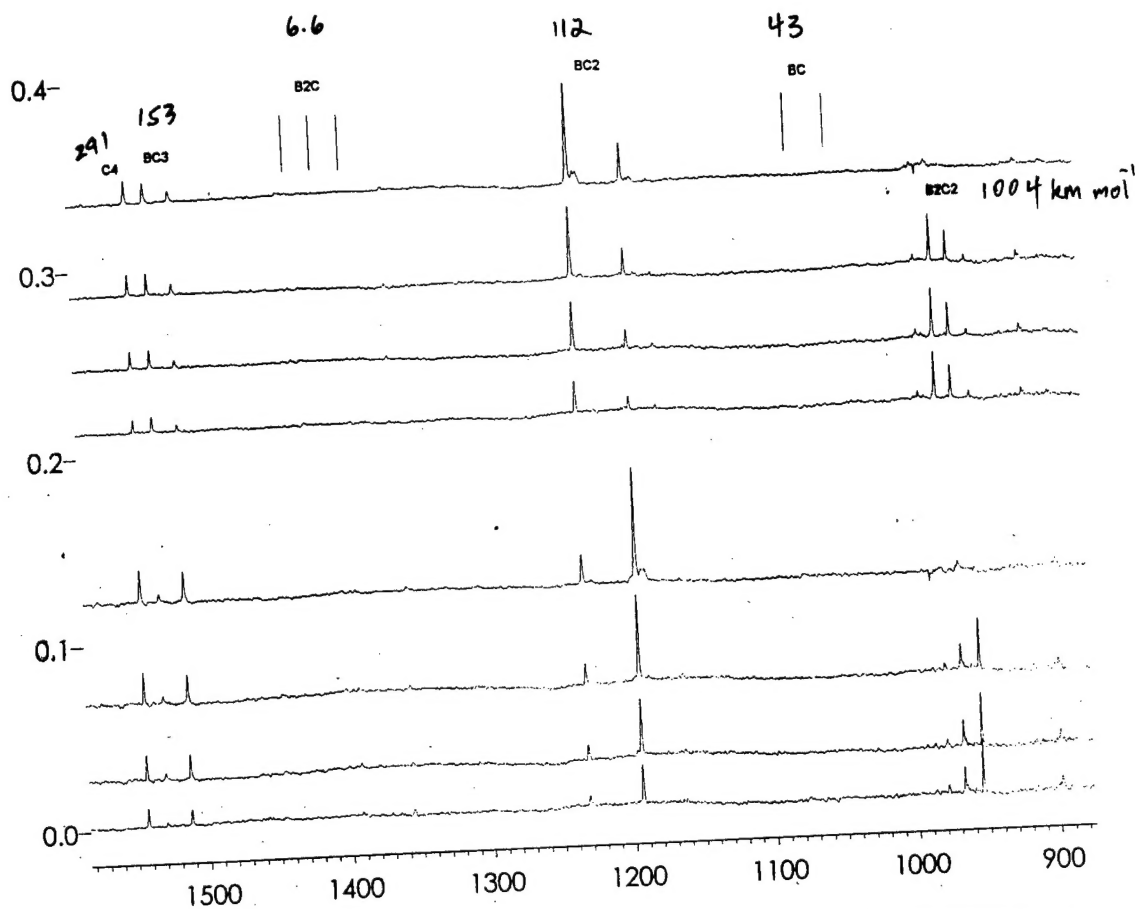


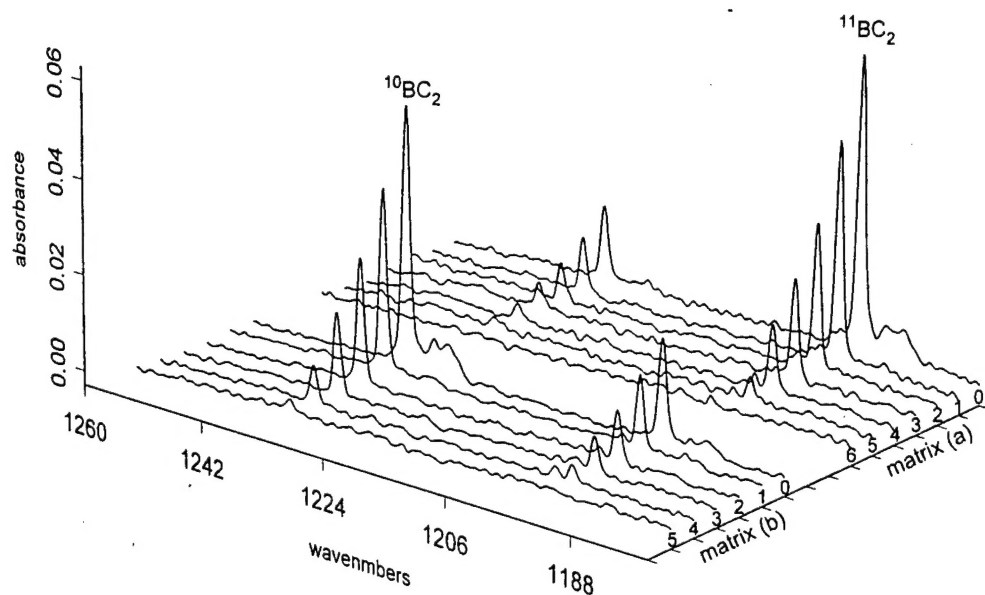
## Annealing

|                         |                        |                                 |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>a0</u> 10 K          | <u>a3</u> 32.5 K, 60 s | <u>a6</u> 40.0 K, 20 s          |
| <u>a1</u> 27.5 K, 120 s | <u>a4</u> 35.0 K, 45 s | sublimation                     |
| <u>a2</u> 30.0 K, 90 s  | <u>a5</u> 37.5 K, 20 s | rate ~ 1 $\mu\text{m}/\text{s}$ |

## Precision matched pair of matrices

|              |                                       |  |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Green Matrix | $^{11}\text{B}/^{10}\text{B} = 80/20$ | enhanced $^{11}\text{B}_J\text{C}_{n-J}$ |
| Red Matrix   | $^{11}\text{B}/^{10}\text{B} = 27/73$ | enhanced $^{10}\text{B}_J\text{C}_{n-J}$ |





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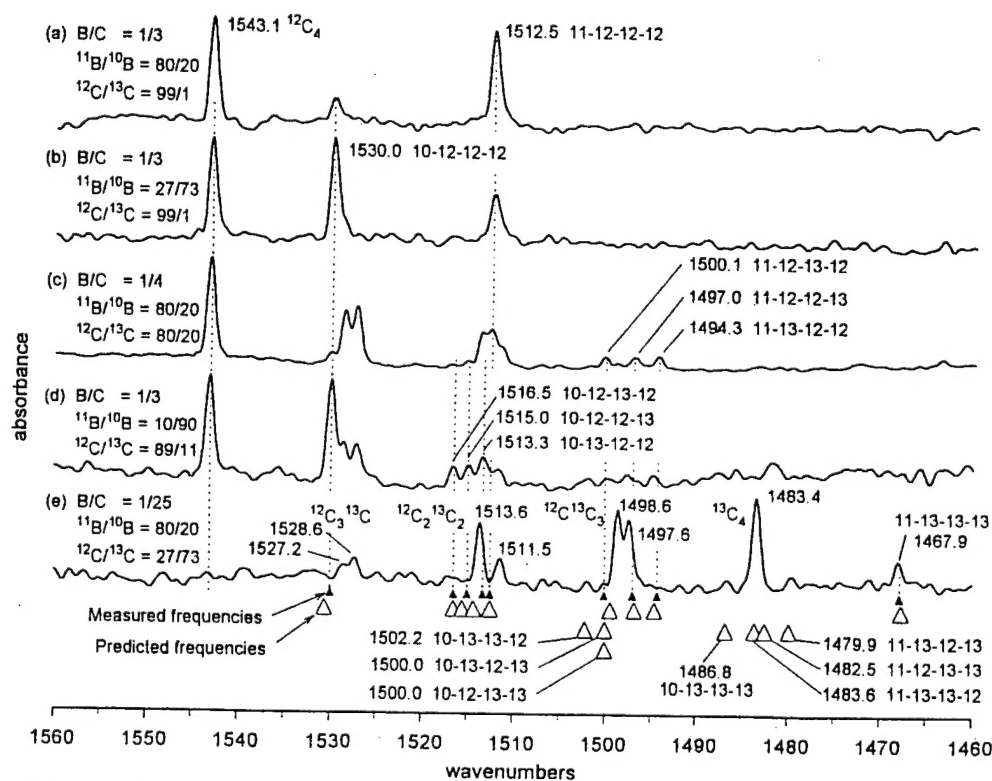


FIG. 1. FTIR spectra of the  $\nu_2(\sigma)$  mode of isotopomers of linear  $\text{BC}_3$  and the  $\nu_3(\sigma_u)$  mode of isotopomers of linear  $\text{C}_4$ . The spectra were recorded at 10 K after annealing the matrices with the indicated compositions at 27.5 K for 150 s. The large open triangles at the bottom show the predicted frequencies of linear  $\text{BC}_3$  isotopomers (as explained in the text) and small filled triangles show measured isotopomer frequencies.

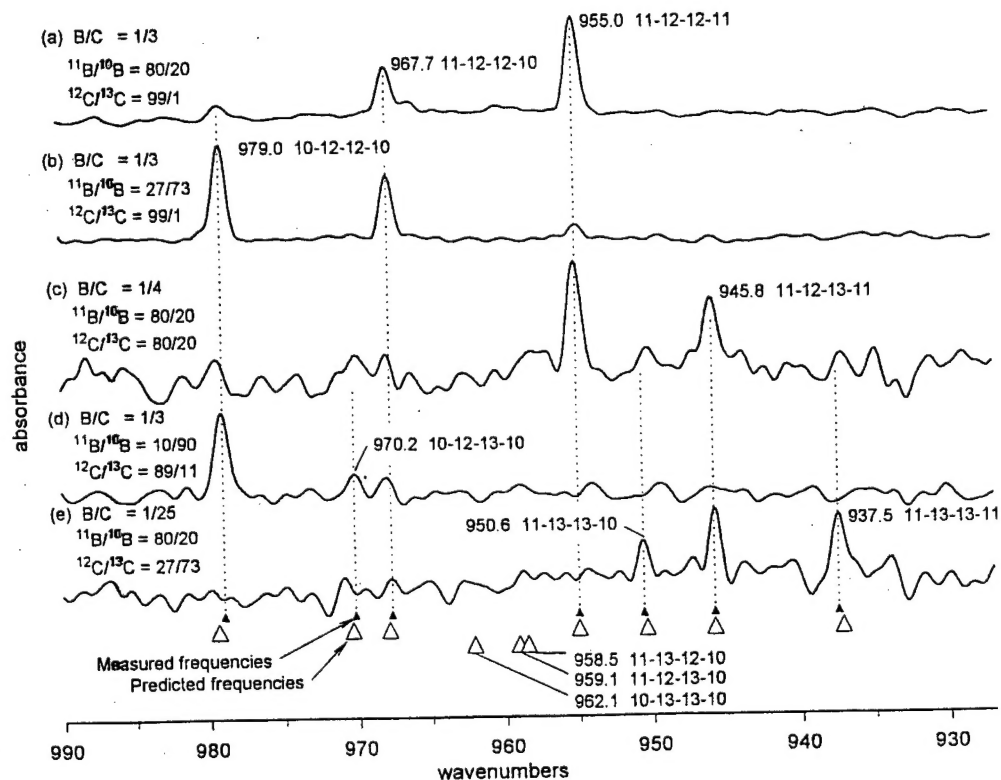
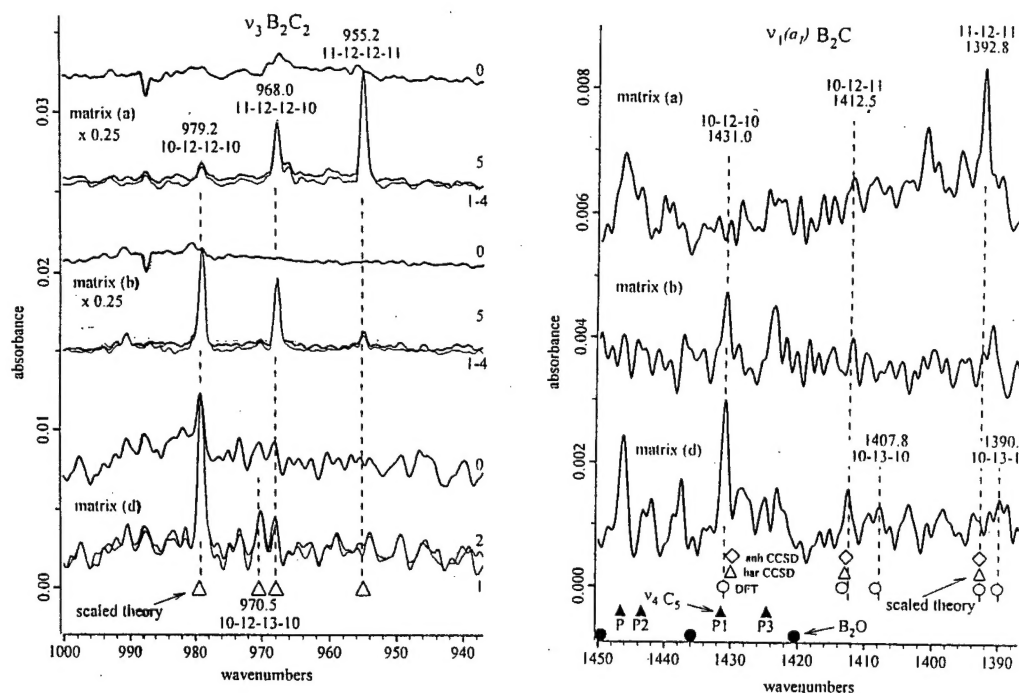


FIG. 3. FTIR spectra of the  $\nu_3(\sigma_p)$  mode of isotopomers of linear BCCB. The spectra were recorded after annealing the matrices with the indicated compositions at 27.5 K for 150 s. The large open triangles at the bottom show the predicted frequencies of linear BCCB isotopomers (as explained in the text) and small filled triangles show measured isotopomer frequencies.

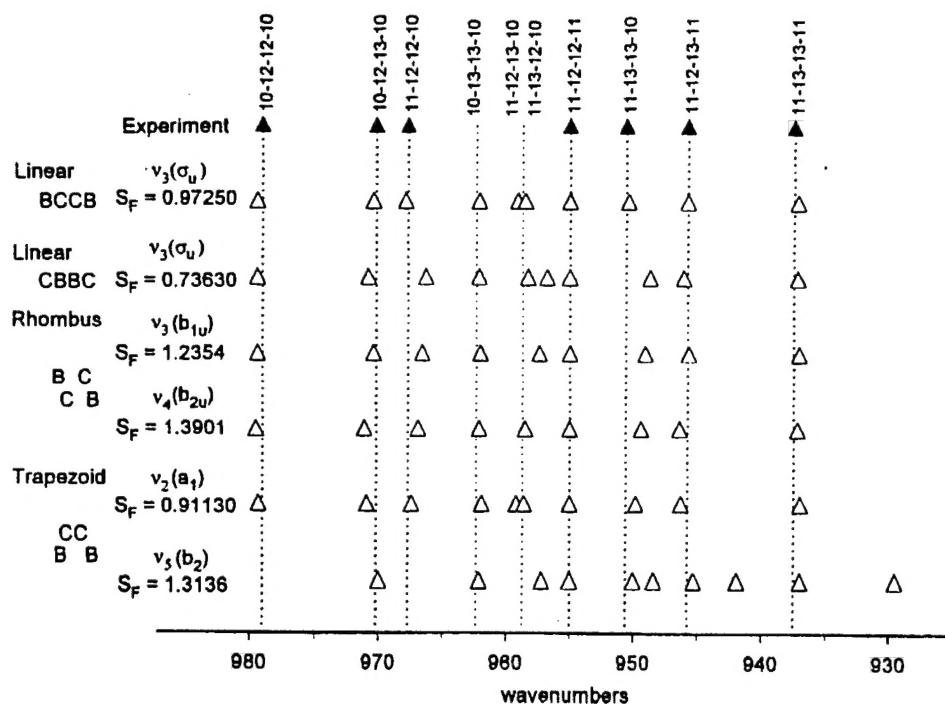
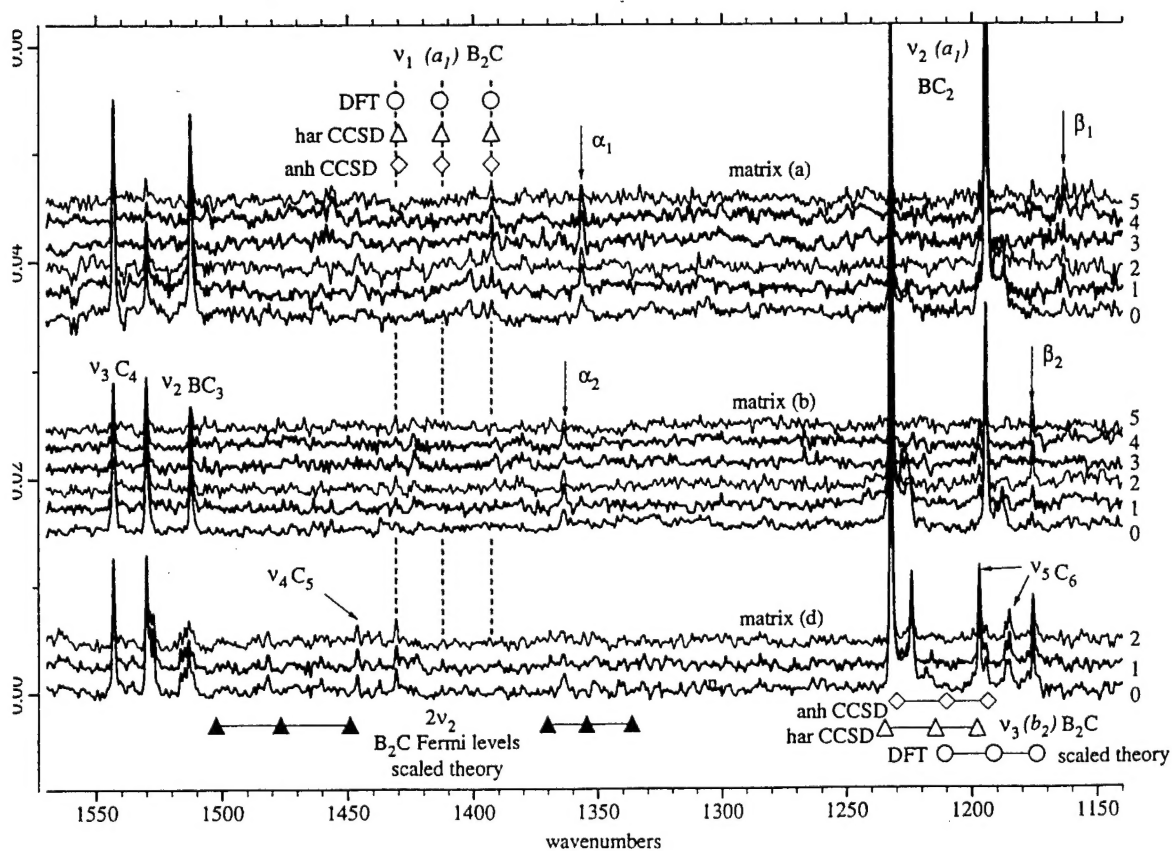
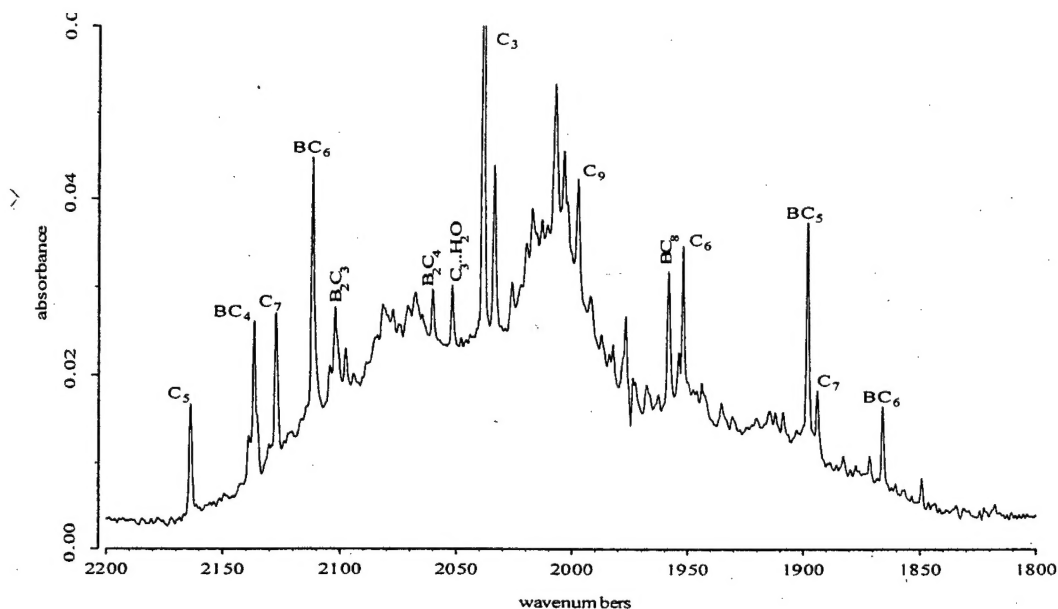


FIG. 4. Comparison of experimental isotopomer frequencies to scaled theoretical isotopomer frequencies for the most intense modes of four  $B_2C_2$  geometries as calculated by Rittby, Ref. 5.

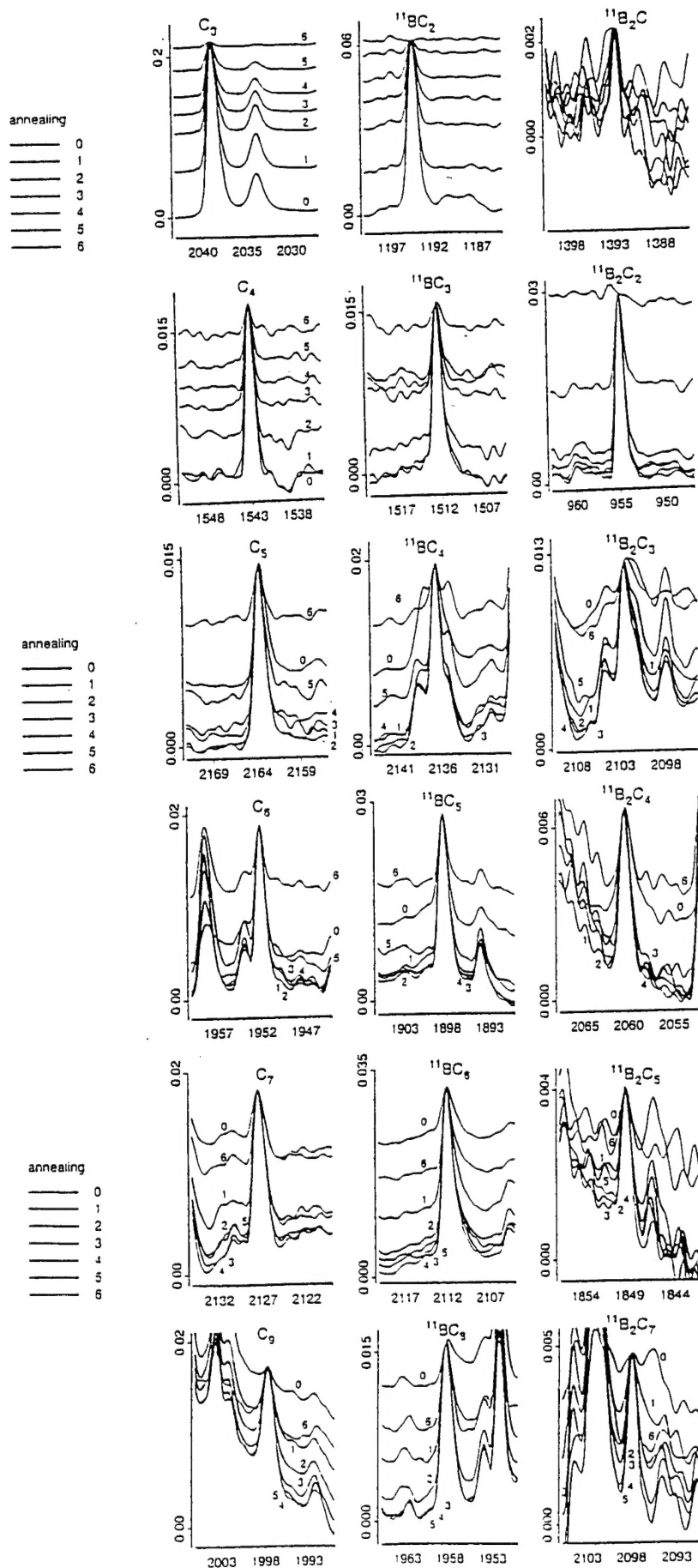


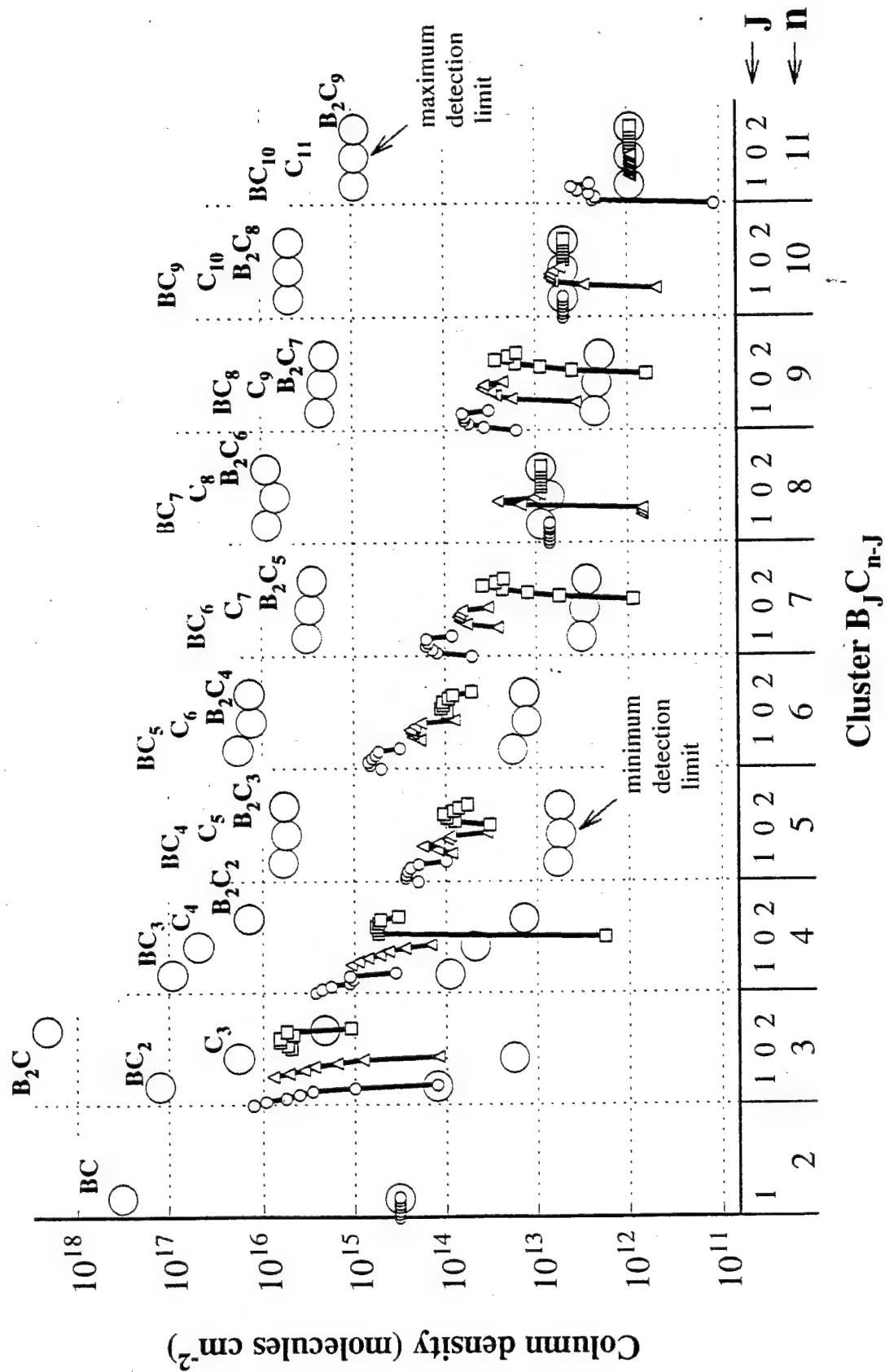




Survey spectrum of matrix containing carbon and boron at natural abundance after three annealings. All of the peaks indicated grow upon annealing except  $C_3$ . Fundamentals of  $BC_{n-1}$  for  $n = 5, 6, 7$ , and  $9$  are similarly red-shifted from fundamentals of linear  $C_n$ , and their experimental absorbances are all slightly greater. Two fundamentals of  $BC_6$  are observed at  $2112$  and  $1866\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , red-shifted from the two fundamentals of linear  $C_7$ .

matrix (a):  $^{11}\text{B}/^{10}\text{B} = 80/20$ ,  $^{12}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C} = 99/1$





## Results and Discussion

Linear  $C_3$ , cyclic  $BC_2$ , and cyclic  $B_2C$ , constituted about 80% of the total observable boron and carbon in the initially deposited matrix, but  $B_3$  was not observed. If  $B_3$  were present, its concentration fell below the detection limit of the system. The measured trimer distribution in the initially formed matrices was  $\rho(C_3) : \rho(BC_2) : \rho(B_2C) : \rho(B_3) \sim 1 : 1.5 : 0.5 : < 0.05$  (upper limit).

Statistical substitution of  $J$  boron atoms into an  $n$ -atom carbon cluster produces a distribution given by  $\rho(B_J C_{n-J}) / \rho(C_n) = [\{n(n-1)\dots(n-J+1)\} / J!] [B/C]^J$ . With the experimental  $B/C \sim 1/3$ , the statistical trimer distribution is

$$\rho(C_3) : \rho(BC_2) : \rho(B_2C) : \rho(B_3) \sim 1 : 1 : 0.33 : 0.03.$$

Agreement between distributions implies trimers form by random condensation of well-mixed atoms, uninfluenced by the relative energies of the trimers, the energies of their precursors, or preferential kinetics pathways that could otherwise distort the statistics.

Linear  $C_3$  and cyclic  $BC_2$ , disappeared entirely when the matrices were repeatedly annealed to temperatures between 25 K and 35 K, but cyclic  $B_2C$  was inert.

Linear  $C_4$  and  $BC_3$  (BCCCC) disappeared more slowly, and linear  $B_2C_2$  (BCCB) grew to  $\sim 95\%$  of its final value during the first annealing. Once formed,  $B_2C_2$ , like  $B_2C$ , was also inert to further reaction.

The sources of  $B_2C_2$  are from condensation of atom plus trimer ( $B + BC_2$  but not  $C + B_2C$ ) or dimer + dimer ( $BC + BC$  but not  $B_2 + C_2$ ). Although  $BC$  was not observed, the upper limit of  $\rho(BC)$  is larger than  $\rho(B_2C_2)$  so that  $BC$  cannot be ruled out as a source of  $B_2C_2$ .

The growth of  $B_2C_2$  is conclusive evidence of the presence of  $BC$  and/or  $B$  in the originally deposited matrix in an amount at least as great as the growth of  $B_2C_2$ .

Linear  $C_5$ ,  $BC_4$  (BCCCC) and  $B_2C_3$  (BCCCB) and larger linear clusters ( $B_J C_{n-J}$ ,  $5 < n < 11$ ,  $J = 0, 1, 2$ ), all grew upon annealing.

The sources of  $B_2C_3$  are dimer + trimer ( $BC + BC_2$  but not  $B_2 + C_3$ ) and atom + tetramer ( $B + BC_3$  but not  $C + B_2C_2$ ).

Since  $\rho(BC_2) \sim 5\rho(BC_3)$  in the initially deposited matrix, the  $BC + BC_2$  source is dominant. Growth of  $B_2C_3$  conclusively establishes the presence of  $BC$  in the matrix in an amount at least as great as the amount by which  $B_2C_3$  grows.

Growth of  $BC_4$  occurs primarily by  $BC + C_3$  rather than  $B + C_4$  or  $C + BC_3$  because  $\rho(C_3) \sim 10\rho(C_4)$  and  $\rho(C_3) \sim 2\rho(BC_3)$ . Growth of  $C_5$  occurs by  $C + C_4$  and  $C_2 + C_3$ , which establishes the presence of  $C$  and/or  $C_2$  in the original matrix in an amount at least as great as  $C_5$  growth.

Disappearance of triangular  $BC_2$  requires breaking of one of its B-C bonds when one of its carbon atoms is attacked. The major reorganization of electronic energy involved in opening the ring appears to occur with little ( $< \sim 3$  kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) or no energy barrier, which makes this small molecule a candidate for an interesting *ab-initio* study of unusual reactivity at low temperature.

## Conclusions

Annealing kinetics of disappearance of  $C_3$  and  $BC_2$ , and of appearance of  $B_2C$ ,  $C_4$ ,  $BC_3$ ,  $B_2C_2$ ,  $C_5$ ,  $BC_4$ , and  $B_2C_3$  unequivocally establishes the presence of atoms and dimers in the originally deposited matrix.

~ 80% or more of the initially deposited HEDM existed as atoms, dimers and trimers.

Molecules with two boron atoms are immune from radical attack and condensation during annealing.

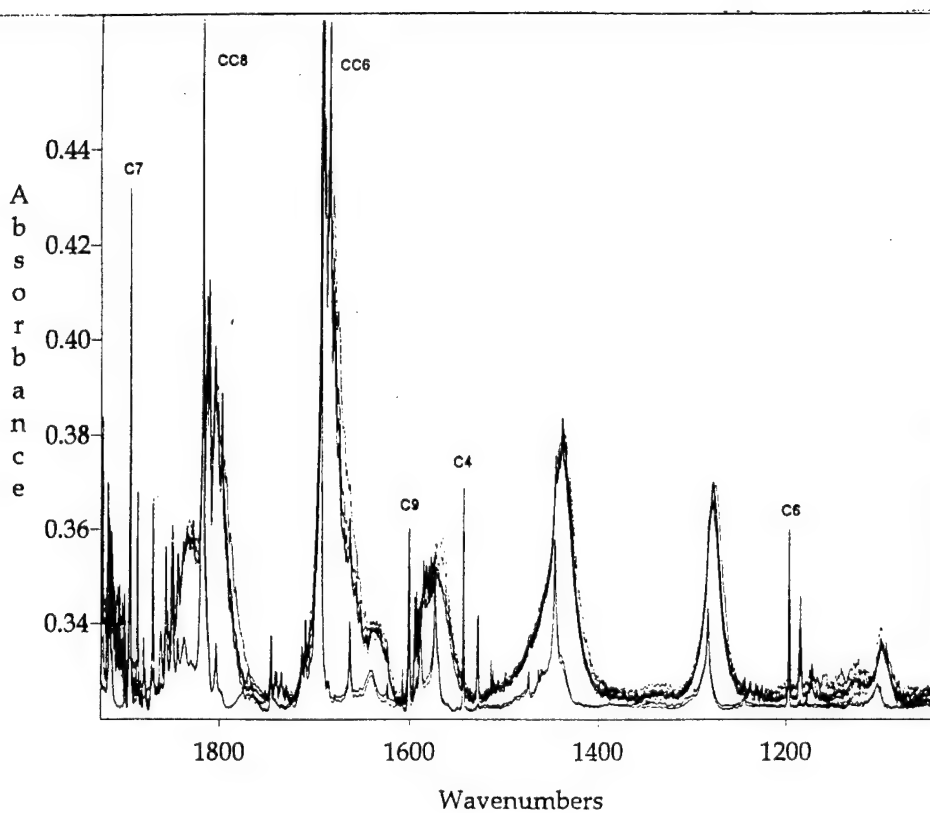
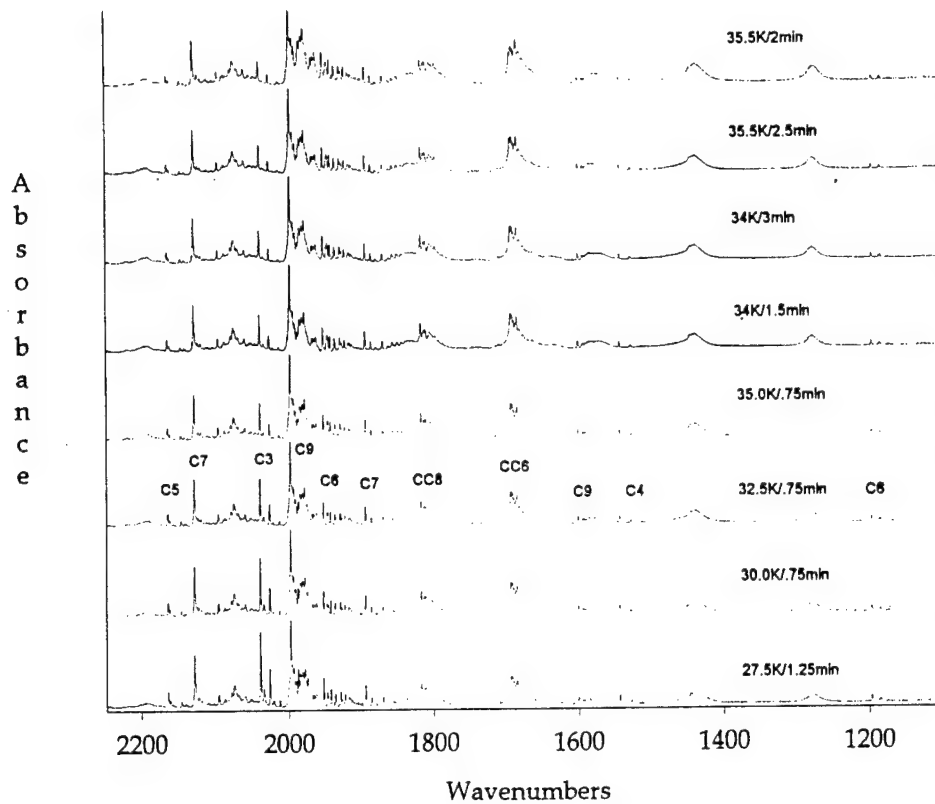
## Future Work

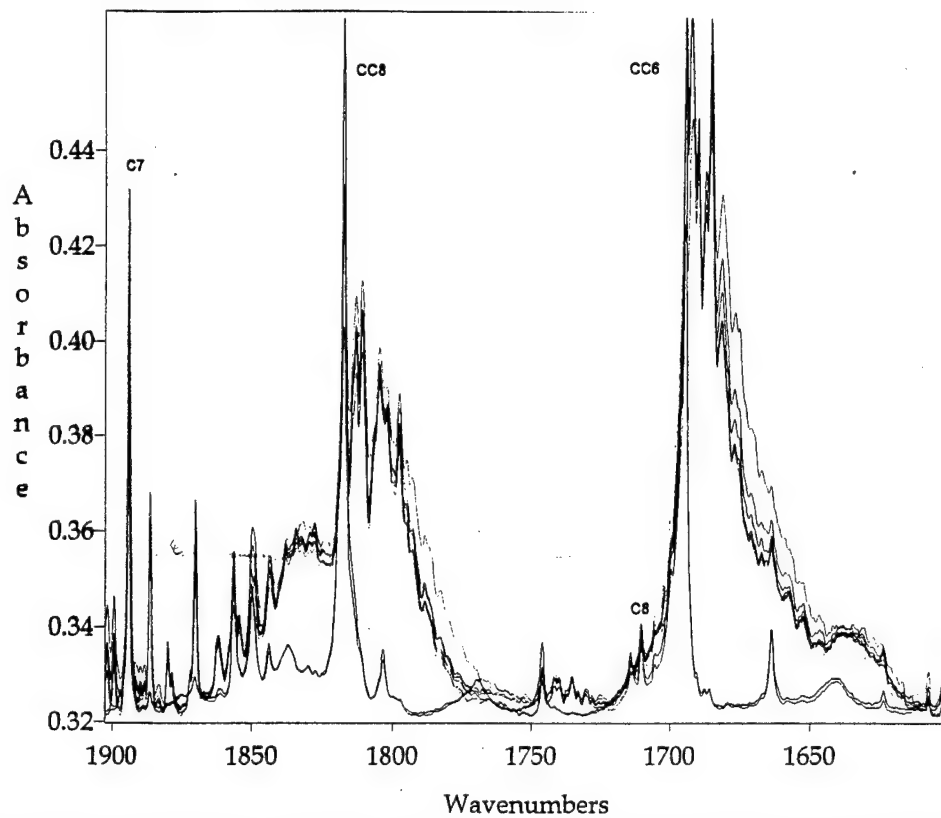
Continued development of source for production of higher flux beam of nearly pure boron atoms.

Map of "islands of stability" of pure boron HEDM;  $B_2$  or  $B_3$  may be the ultimate sink for atoms in the low temperature HEDM environment.

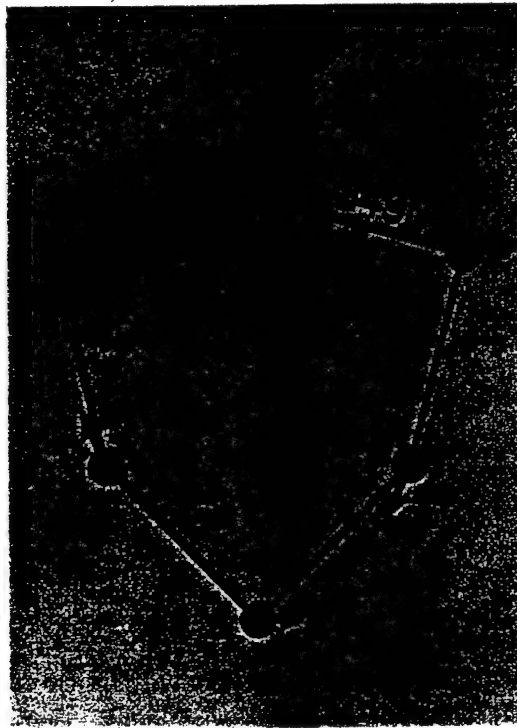
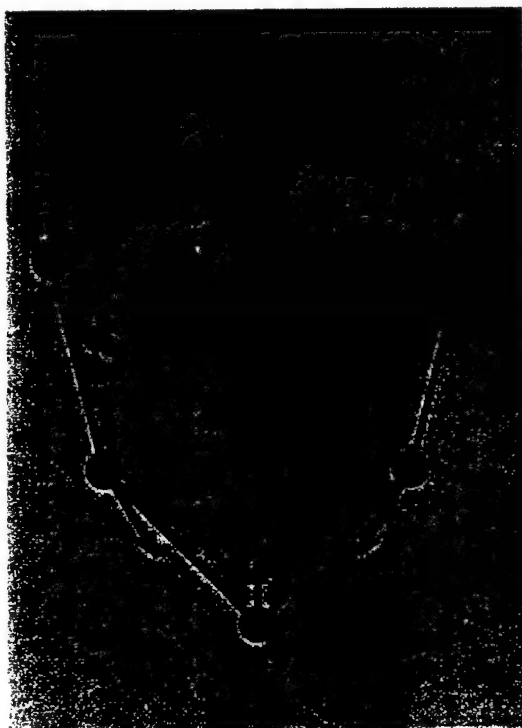
Determine reactivity of boron atoms with hydrogen during co-deposition.

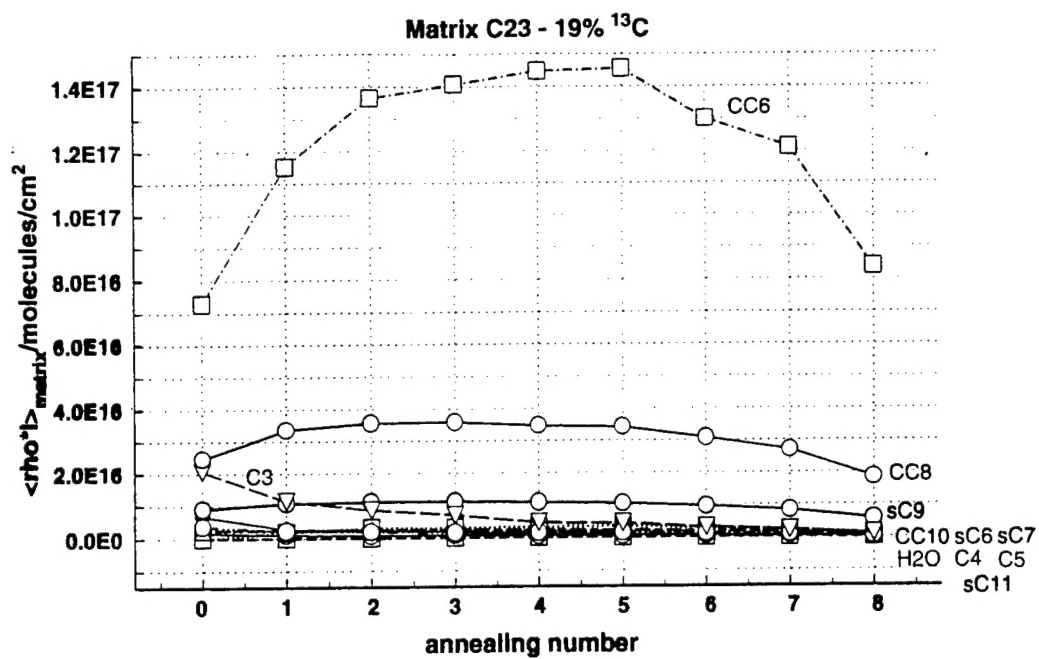
Develop rapid condensation methodology to prevent reaction of B with  $H_2$ .



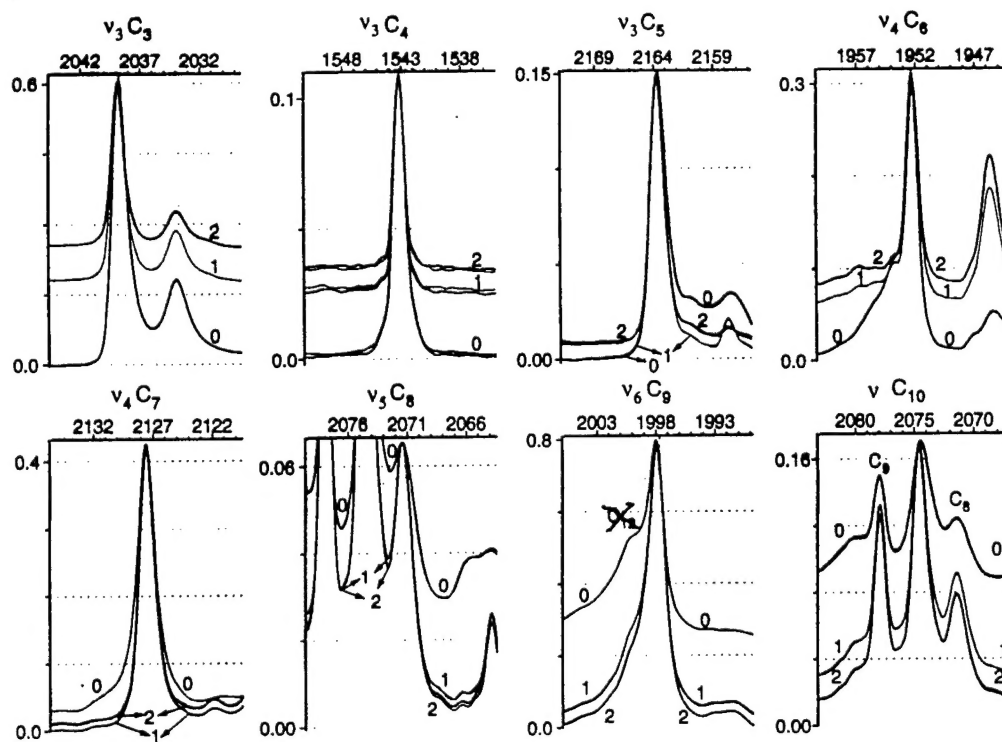


$\nu_4(e')$



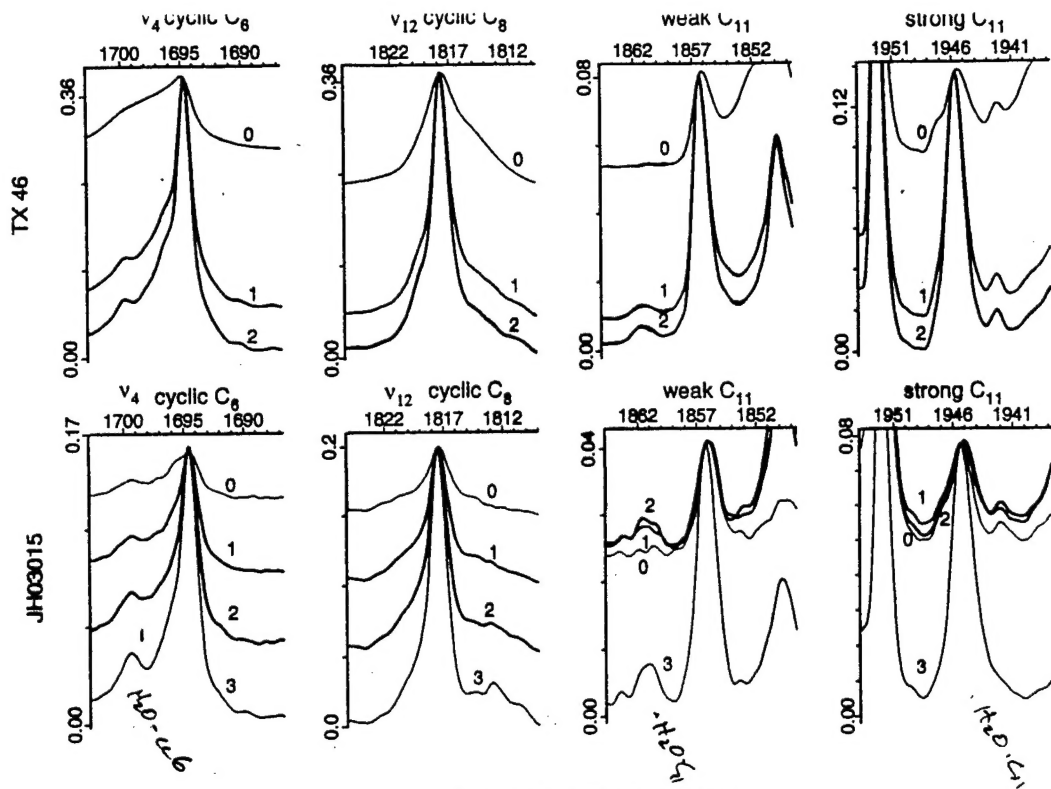


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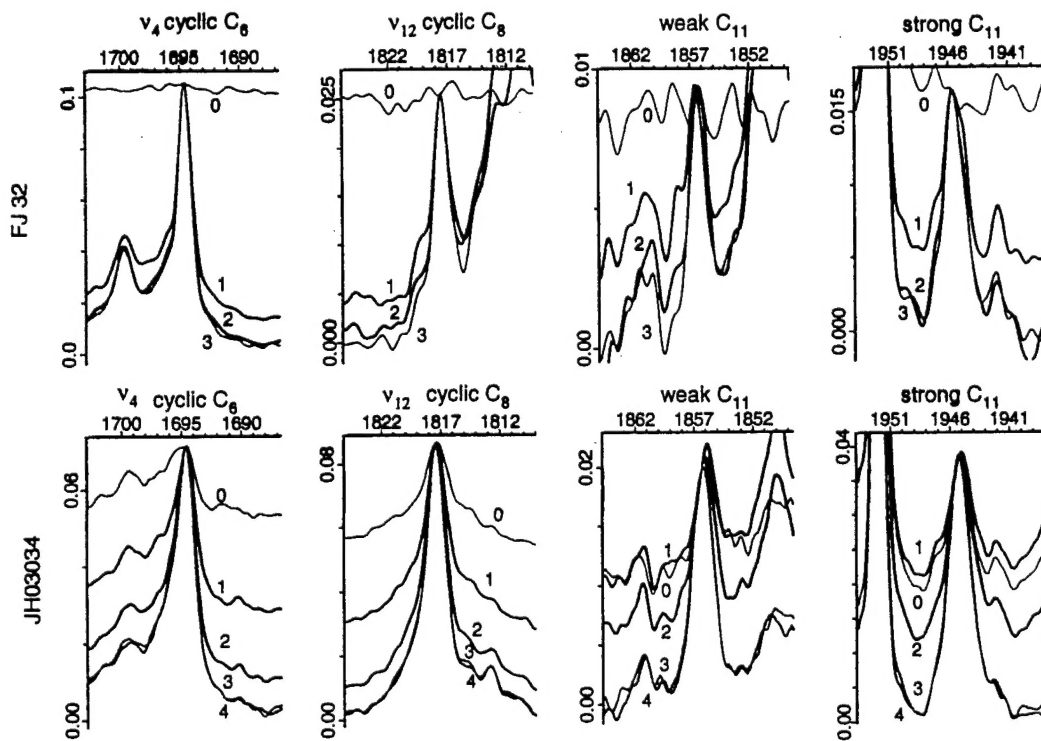
Carbon Matrix (a) - Linear  $\text{C}_n$  Clusters





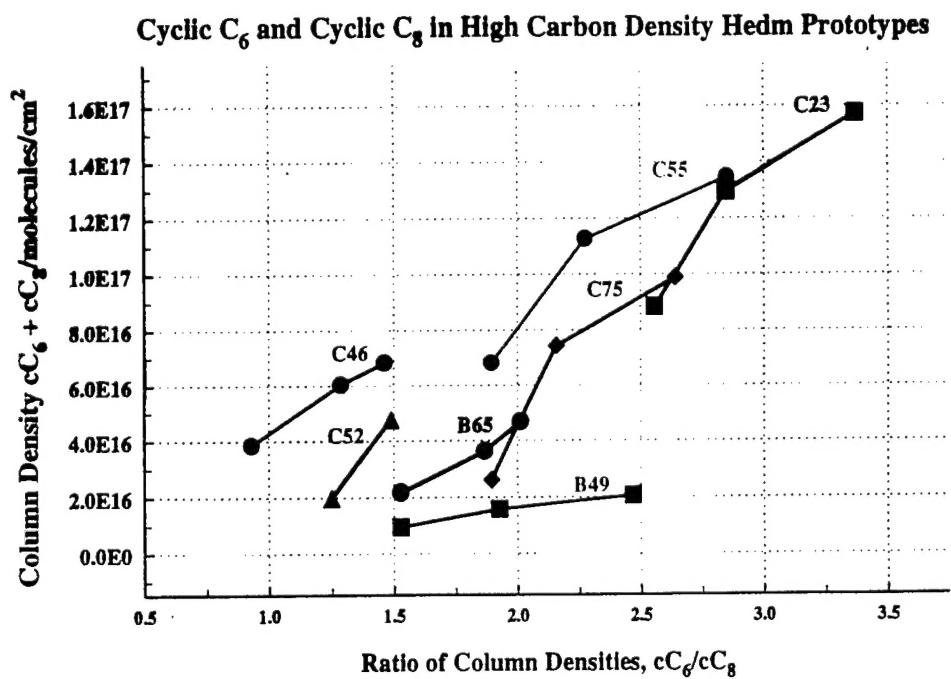
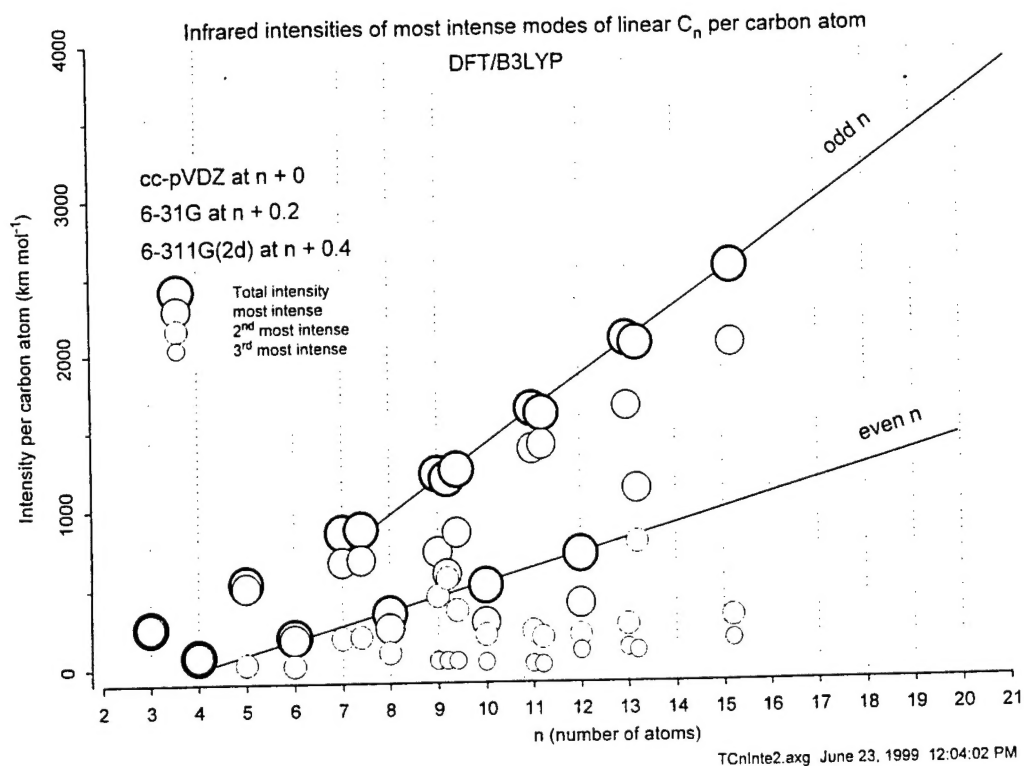
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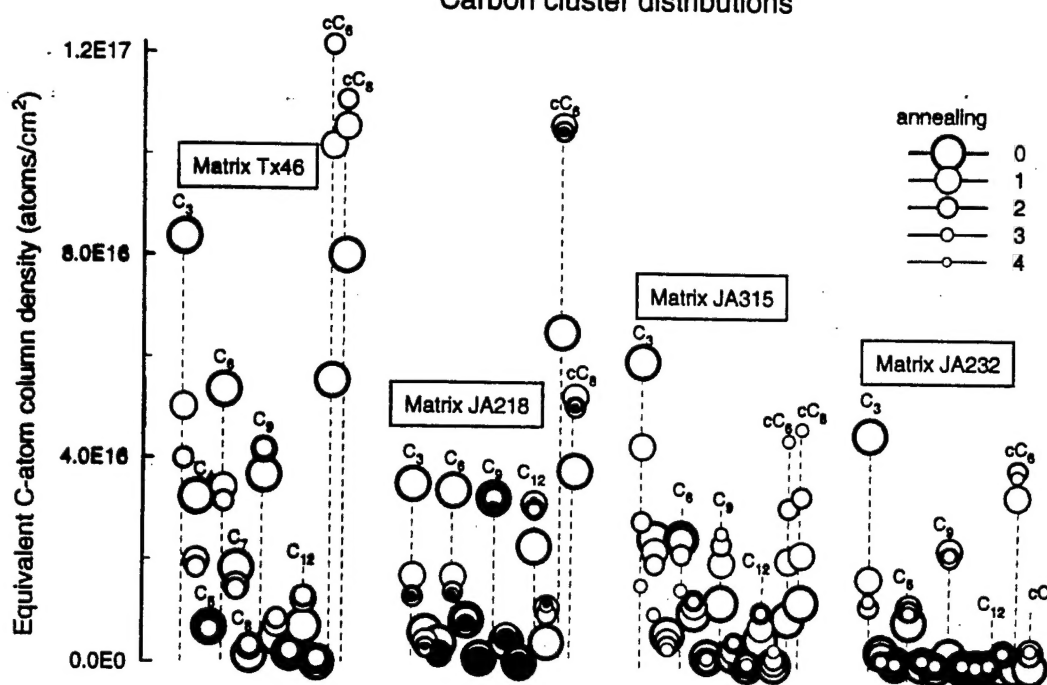
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## Carbon cluster distributions



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## Conclusions from Carbon HEDM Research

**Quantitative analysis** - Establishes HEDM density, distribution of carbon clusters, heat of formation of HEDM. Enables tracking of growth and decay of carbon clusters - carbon bookkeeping - quantification of "invisible carbon", C-atom and  $C_2$ .

**Highest density matrix** (equivalent C-atom density  $\sim 1$  mole percent in argon) contained **40%** "invisible" carbon ( $C$ ,  $C_2$ ), determined by tracking the growth of the "visible" (measurable) carbon to a constant composition after repeated annealing. Main product of condensation is cyclic  $C_6$ .

**Yields of cyclic- $C_6$**  are a factor of two larger than the combined yield of all other clusters in the fully condensed, highest density matrices. Cyclic- $C_6$  is the dominant condensation product.

**Knudsen oven** produces  $\sim 80\%$   $C_3$  and  $\sim 10\%$  each of  $C_2$  and C-atom (by mass).

**Laval oven** with  $\Delta T \sim 600$  K (between graphite surface and orifice) produces  $\sim 5\%$   $C_3$  and  $C_2$  and  $\sim 90\%$  C-atom. C-atoms production by our oven (relative to  $C_3$ ) is enhanced by higher temperature, which is accompanied by higher  $\Delta T$ . Langmuir evaporation produces vapor rich in atoms.

**Substrate** must be shielded from oven to prevent condensation during deposition.

**Higher temperature oven** places higher heat load on substrate, which promotes condensation.

**Obtained higher density matrices** by decreasing argon flux and maintaining oven flux. However, condensation was also increased.

**Matrices produced with argon/5%  $H_2$**  caused nearly complete loss of  $C_{n+1}$  and  $C_{n+2}$  relative to  $C_{n+3}$ , suggesting that  $H_2$  scavenges C-atoms efficiently during co-deposition.